BA-1850

Patterson Viaduct Ruins, Arch & Causeway

Architectural Survey File

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the "vertical files" at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site (mht.maryland.gov) for details about how to make an appointment.

All material is property of the Maryland Historical Trust.

Last Updated: 06-23-2004

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The remains of the Patterson Viaduct stand on the east (Baltimore County) and west (Howard County) banks of the Patapsco River just south of the present bridge carrying the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad over the river near Ilchester, Maryland.

A description of the then new Viaduct taken from the 1829 annual report of the Railroad is as follows:

This bridge rises about 43 feet above its foundations. has four graduated arches - 2 of 55 foot chord each and two The smaller arches were introduced of 20 foot chord each. for the accommodation of two county roadways, one on each side of the river. Each of the roadways is secured against the action of the stream by substantial quardwalls of suitable length and height. Its length is upwards of 360 feet. The stones in the arches, as in the Carrollton and other bridges, are so shaped as to conform to the radii of circles of which the arches are segments. The versed sines of the larger arches are 16 and of the smaller arches 6 feet. mass[ive] blocks of granite, some of which exceed 7 tons weight, which form the exterior of its walls, are regularly butted and vertically jointed. Its exterior is undressed or rustic. It contains 9601-1/2 perches of masonry. It was commenced in May and passed in the succeeding December. Its cost was \$35,552.85, or \$3.71 a perch.

The Viaduct was almost totally destroyed in the great Patapsco Valley flood of 1868. A single-span Bollman truss built into the west abutment in 1869 incorporated the original roadway arch and upstream wingwall. With the realignment of the railroad 400 feet upstream in 1902-1903, the Bollman bridge was left unused. Today, all that remains at the original crossing is the single masonry roadway arch of the 1829 construction on the west bank and the stone abutment on the east bank.

SIGNIFICANCE

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SPECIFIC DATES

1829

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Patterson Viaduct (or Ilchester Bridge), built from May to December 1829, was part of the original main line of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. It was constructed in the first building phase of the Railroad which extended from Baltimore City to Ellicott's Mills. The Patterson, the third bridge to be built for the B & O, is similar in construction to the Carrollton Viaduct (National Register). Designed by Caspar Wever, it was built under the supervision of John McCartney, one of his assistants. A note from McCartney to Wever dated 17October 1829 reads as follows:

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McCartney received the contract to build the Thomas Viaduct (National Register) as a result of his successful completion of the Patterson contract.

¹From copy in the files of Division of Mechanical and Civil Engineering, Smithsonian Institution.

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Stein, Char	les Francis, J	Jr. Origi:	n and Hi	story of Ho	ward County, Mar
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

DATE ENTERED

Patterson Viaduct
Howard & Baltimore Counties

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

#9

Dennis, Olive W. History of the Old Main Line, Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. 1943.



BA-1850

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

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7 DESCRIPTION

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
1600-1699	ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
1800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

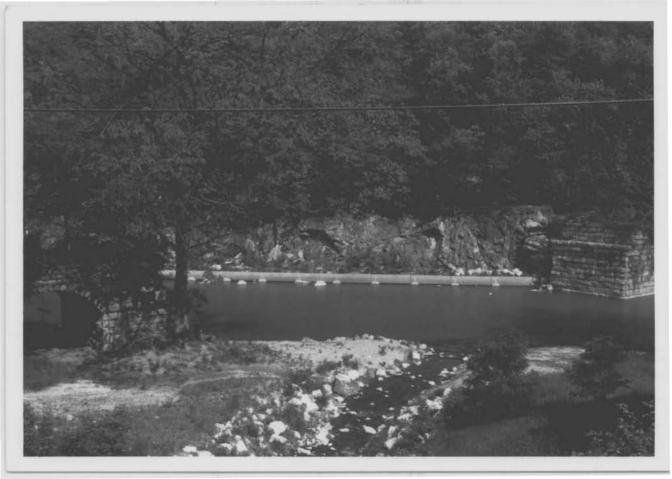
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The Shaw House, 21 State Circle

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

(301) 267-1438





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